



MISSOURI
ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY

Missouri Assistive Technology 2013 Annual Report Table of Contents

- 1 Council Chair's Message
- 2 Missouri Assistive Technology Overview
- 3 Device Loan/Borrowing
- 4 Device Recycling
- 5 Device Demonstrations
- 6 Show Me Loans
- 7 Kids Assistive Technology
- 8 TAP for Telephone
- 9 TAP for Internet
- 10 Assistive Technology Request Program
- 11 Policy & Technical Assistance
- 12 Training and Power Up Conference
- IBC** Council and Staff (*inside back cover*)

Council Chair's Message

More than ever, assistive technology is helping people with disabilities become more independent – in the community, in the classroom, at work, and in all areas of daily life. As Council Chair this year, I've been privileged to work with stakeholders including individuals with disabilities and their families, organizations and agencies, and dedicated Council members, all working to improve access to assistive technology (AT). The Council and staff have done a fantastic job of reaching individuals with all types of disabilities in all parts of our state.

In 2012-13, MoAT delivered 6,405 assistive technology devices and provided support services to 20,281 Missourians with disabilities.

- 897 ETC devices loaned
- 3,294 Device Demonstrations provided
- 2,764 TAP for Telephone, adaptive telephones provided
- 936 TAP for Internet, adaptive computer equipment provided
- 15 KAT (Kids Assistive Technology) devices provided
- 179 ATR (Assistive Technology Request) devices provided
- 53 Show Me Loans provided
- 1,591 Device Re-Utilization reuse items transferred
- 10,552 Individuals provided information and assistance

MoAT programs like equipment loan and device demonstrations help persons make informed choices about which AT best meets their needs, saving scarce purchasing dollars. Other programs like equipment recycling, TAP, Kids Assistive Technology, Show-Me Loans, and ATR provide a means to obtain AT once a device is selected.

Missouri Assistive Technology is pleased to provide this annual report to give you insight into the Council's programs and services and to the stories of the persons served.

Sincerely,

Pam Arbeiter
Council Chair 2012-13



Pam Arbeiter
Council Chair 2012-13



Missouri Assistive Technology Overview

Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT) rankings among state and territory Assistive Technology programs nationally:

- MoAT ranks 3rd in the nation in the number of device demonstrations provided.
- MoAT ranks 6th in the number of individuals who received training in assistive technology.
- MoAT ranks 6th in the amount of dollars saved through device reutilization programs.
- MoAT ranks 10th in the number of financial loans provided.
- MoAT ranks 9th in total information and assistance provided.
- MoAT ranks 14th in the number of AT devices loaned.

The mission of Missouri Assistive Technology is to increase access to assistive technology for Missourians with all types of disabilities, of all ages.



Device Loan Program

Missouri Assistive Technology's device loan program, called "ETC", loans out hundreds of assistive technology (AT) devices for school, work, or out in the community. Devices can be borrowed for up to six weeks in order to decide whether the device meets someone's needs; to use while a personal device is in for repairs; or for use in training. AT is available for speech communication; blindness or low-vision; mobility; computer access; cognitive impairments; hearing loss; and other disabilities. This year, MoAT loaned 897 devices, software and apps, saving school districts and agencies tens of thousands of dollars from making incorrect purchasing decisions. Of the 681 organizations who used the program, the majority of borrowers were school districts, health and rehabilitation agencies and independent living centers.



AT Achievement

Mason is a six-year-old who is non-verbal but full of life and personality. With cerebral palsy and other disabilities, Mason's main forms of communication had been gesturing, making sounds, and expressions. Then Mason's mom attended Missouri Assistive Technology's (MoAT) 2013 "Power Up" assistive technology conference and everything changed.

During the sessions she attended, she was inspired to find out more. The family became hopeful visiting with MoAT staff about options for speech communication and borrowed a device, the Dynavox Maestro, from MoAT's device loan program.

The trial period offered the chance to work with Mason over the summer, and assured that scarce healthcare dollars were not wasted on a device that Mason either would not use, or that wasn't the device that most closely matched his needs and abilities. The family is ecstatic that Mason has finally been given his own voice in the world.

Device Loans by Device Type

233
computer related

9
daily living

85
environmental adaptations

51
hearing

77
learning

306
speech communications

136
vision

Device Recycling

Missouri Assistive Technology has two programs that help provide low-cost or no-cost assistive technology devices to Missourians with disabilities. They include a statewide durable medical equipment recycling network and a web-based equipment exchange service called Swap 'n Shop.

The statewide equipment recycling effort supports regional organizations to collect, refurbish, and redistribute used durable medical equipment and other AT. These include sites in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Farmington, Joplin, Kansas City, Kirksville, Owensville, St. Louis, and Springfield.

Items typically available for re-use include power and manual wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, aids for daily living and pediatric positioning equipment. Other devices such as stair lifts, vehicle lifts, low-vision aids and communication devices are also sometimes available. Nearly 99% of consumers rated themselves as being “highly satisfied” or “satisfied” with the service.

This year, the recycling programs enabled the recycling of 1,591 pieces of equipment. More than 1,300 Missourians were able to obtain much-needed equipment with a total savings of \$613,328 over the cost of purchasing new devices



AT Achievement

Bill, from Excelsior Springs, was in need of a stair lift. He has a mobility impairment, and needed to access his basement in order to use his exercise equipment that helps him maintain his health. He couldn't afford a new stair lift, and contacted the CFI center for independent living in Kansas City. It just so happened that another family had just notified the center that they had a stair lift available for donation. Because of this connection, Bill was able to receive the lift at no cost and he can now enjoy his basement while maintaining his health.

Recycling by Device Type

732 mobility/seating positioning \$352,351	691 daily living devices \$157,849	4 vehicle & transportation \$54,185	30 vision devices \$12,283	26 speech communications \$9,520	34 recreation devices \$8,022	74 other devices \$19,118
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Device Demonstrations

Missourians with disabilities, spouses, parents, and caregivers – all have the chance for hands-on exploration through assistive technology demonstrations. It's a chance to compare features and benefits of particular devices to help users make informed decisions to help improve their independence.

MoAT along with its supported assistive technology demonstration programs helps individuals make decisions about which AT will meet an individual's disability needs and avoid wasted expenditures on "mismatched" AT. This year, 3,294 device demonstrations were provided to 4,269 individuals through demonstration sites in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Joplin, Kansas City, Kirksville, Owensville, and Springfield, along with MoAT staff and TAP service coordinators. Over 99% of participants were able to make a decision as to whether the devices demonstrated would meet their needs.



AT Achievement

Mary has multiple disabilities: low vision, hearing loss, osteoarthritis, carpal tunnel and, as a result of a car accident in 2009, a spinal condition. She was a student at Columbia College until she had to discontinue her studies because of her disabilities.

Her carpal tunnel and osteoarthritis meant that Mary had to sit at her computer for hours on end to complete her assignments. Despite her determination, Mary fell behind in her classes and missed classes due to her pain and discomfort. Eventually, she had to discontinue her studies.

In April of 2013, Mary visited the demonstration site at Services for Independent Living in Columbia. She was able to meet with a knowledgeable AT professional to receive a guided demonstration of several assistive technology solutions that could enable her to more effectively and less painfully access the computer for school work.

"It's like Christmas! I'm totally amazed at the technology and may be able to go back to college now," she enthusiastically exclaimed.



Demos by Device Type

32 speech communications
882 vision
1,779 hearing

54 computers
264 daily living
10 learning

41 mobility
8 recreation

164 environmental
60 vehicle

Show-Me Loans

The Show Me Loans program provides loans to Missouri residents with disabilities and/or their families for purchase of almost any kind of assistive technology device or service including vehicle or home access modifications. Show Me Loans also offers WorkAbility loans for equipment needed to obtain or maintain employment.

This past year, Show Me Loans provided 53 loans totaling \$361,904 for Missouri residents. The majority of the dollars loaned were for accessible vehicles, hearing aids, and to adapt homes for access needs. Program staff also helped individuals leverage additional funds from other sources such as vocational rehabilitation, developmental disability agencies, and charitable organizations. All together, an additional \$37,672 was also made available through the other resources.

AT Achievements



Mike is from Ozark County in South-central Missouri. He has advanced peripheral neuropathy which limited his ability to walk and get out around town to shop and run errands. Mike was able to purchase a scooter through Show Me Loans that helped him regain some of his independence, and to visit community businesses when he needed to. Mike says that he hopes that the program will help other folks with disabilities get out and about like he's able to do now!



Rebecca in St. Louis is an active volunteer at the St. Louis Society for the Blind. She lost vision in one eye due to a stroke eight years ago and has very limited vision in the other. Rebecca, an artist of many genres, uses a computer to create digital art. During her volunteer work, she learned about Show Me Loans. Through her loan, she was able to upgrade her computer, get a high retina computer screen, and a high density lamp that has natural light. She also obtained additional needed adaptations through MoAT's TAP for Internet program. Rebecca has created numerous piece of art with the help of her new equipment.



Lewis lives in Barry County in Southwest Missouri. He lost most of his hearing in both ears and his old hearing aids were only marginally helpful for him. It was difficult for him to interact with others. His Audiologist recommended an improved set of hearing aids and referred him to the Show Me Loans for low interest financing. With the Show Me Loan, he was able to replace his hearing aids with an updated model. Now he is much happier with his ability to communicate, especially with his adult children and their families.

Kids Assistive Technology (KAT)

Assistive technology (AT) can often be costly for parents of children with disabilities. Many types of AT are not covered by health insurance or other funding sources. The Kids Assistive Technology (KAT) program is MoAT's funding source for low to moderate income families when no other options exist. The Department of Health and Senior Services – Bureau of Special Health Care Needs, provides KAT program funding.

This past year, families of 15 children with disabilities were helped with funds totaling \$41,672 for a variety of needs. MoAT program staff works to obtain funding from any other possible source before utilizing KAT funds. As a result, a total of \$46,504 in funding from other organizations was leveraged to combine with the KAT grant funds to assist families and their children with special needs.

AT Achievements



Lauren is a 11-year-old from Christian County in Southwest Missouri. She has a learning disability and a central auditory processing disorder. Lauren has challenges with recognizing subtle differences between sounds in words. Her audiologist recommended an FM system that would improve the noise ratio of speech that she hears during conversation. Through a KAT grant, her parents were able to obtain an FM system to improve her comprehension of what is spoken to her during conversations.



Ryley is a 4-year-old from Randolph County in Northeast Missouri who uses a wheelchair for mobility. As she grew, her parents had more difficulty lifting her and her wheelchair from their home entrance. The set up of the entryway made a wheelchair ramp impractical. Her case coordinator helped the family apply for a KAT grant to help with the installation of a vertical platform lift. Now Ryley's parents can help her in and out of her home safely and easily.



Alex is a 13-year-old boy with muscular dystrophy from Callaway County. He uses a power chair for mobility, but the only way he could get to his downstairs bedroom in his home was to go outside to the lower entrance. His family applied for and received a KAT grant to allow them to install a stairlift. Now Alex is completely independent in being able to go from another part of his home to his room.



TAP for Telephone

Missourians with disabilities are able to lead more independent lives through adaptive telephone equipment through the Telecommunications Access Program for Telephone (TAP-T).

This year, 2,764 adaptive telephone devices were provided to 2,550 individuals. People with hearing loss comprise 66% of program recipients, another 28% have vision loss, 3% have mobility issues, 1% have speech difficulty, and 2% have multiple disabilities that prevent them from using traditional phones. A network of 40 TAP demonstration centers and specialty agencies throughout the state provide consumer support and ensure that the appropriate adaptive equipment matches the consumer’s specific functional needs.

Eighty percent of consumers reported that they had a disability that made it difficult to use the phone for three or more years. As a result of this telephone technology, consumers shared that the program allowed them to stay in their own home (54%), call for emergencies (62%), call for transportation (57%), communicate with family and friends (88%), maintain or get employment (6%), improve education access (2%).

Comments from TAP for Telephone consumers

“Thank You for improving my life- a change that is useful 365 days a year. Three Cheers for TAP!!!”

“Thank you so very much for the telephone I received from you. It was a Godsend to allow me to be so independent. I will always be very grateful.”

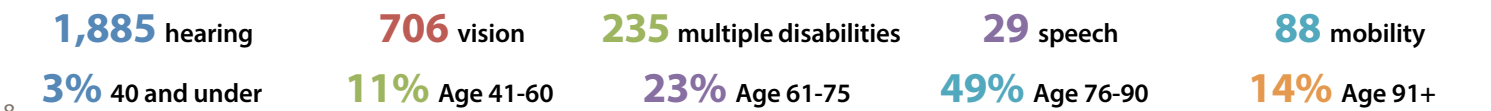


AT Achievement

Donald, a senior from Warsaw, used to call his sister every morning just to say he was okay and then hang up. He is severely hard of hearing, and wasn’t able to hear anything his sister said over the phone. If she sensed he wasn’t feeling well, she would have to drive from Blue Springs to Warsaw to check on him. For doctor appointments, she would have to drive down the night before to remind him. Donald was able to try out a voice carryover phone at West-Central Independent Living Solutions in Warrensburg. His sister says that the Telecommunications Access Program has not only impacted Donald’s life, but hers also.

“That phone has changed his life so much; he feels like a real person now because we actually have conversations. He doesn’t feel isolated anymore. He’s even called a couple of friends that he hadn’t talked to for a long time because he couldn’t hear them. You’ve just done so much more good than you’ll ever know and I can’t thank you enough for the change you’ve brought to our lives.”

TAP for Telephone - Recipients by Disability Type and Age of Recipients



TAP for Internet

"Being connected" to the Internet is important for almost everyone these days. The Telecommunications Access Program for Internet (TAP-I) provides hundreds of Missourians who have disabilities with vital access to the Internet and e-mail for communicating with family and friends, for online banking, for medical reasons and for endless other activities.

This year, TAP-I provided 936 computer adaptations to 619 Missourians with disabilities. The program remains the only one of its kind in the nation. Screen readers, magnification software, voice recognition software, text-to-speech software, alternative keyboards and pointing devices can all be provided through TAP-I. Individuals may also receive training on the equipment when needed.

Comments from TAP for Internet consumers:

"I really thought there was no hope for the issues I had with learning. I am hopeful for the first time in I don't know how many years. I wish my parents would have figured these struggles as a child, however now I am excited at the chance in front of me. I am so excited to be getting this opportunity to possibly change my life."

"I've received the Focus 40 Blue refreshable Braille display, and absolutely love it! I used it for a huge research project already this week!"

"Thank you! The large monitor, Zoomtext, and keyboard are a godsend! It's incredible and I'm so grateful! After two and a half years, I can actually see the monitor, email friends and look up medical info!"

"Thank you soooooooooooooooooooooo much."



AT Achievement

Shelby is a bright 11 year old girl in Jasper County who has a rare neuromuscular disease – so rare that the only doctor who can treat her is in Toronto. Shelby wasn't able to do her schoolwork at home because of extreme muscle fatigue.

TAP-I was able to assess possible solutions for her, and then provide a modified computer mouse, a speech recognition program, a microphone and headset. Shelby's mother shared that the program has helped Shelby keep on her path to her goal of going to college. In fact, Shelby already has ties to her home town school of Missouri Southern State University, where she is an honorary member of the volleyball team through "Champions For Kids", and she joins the team in her power chair on the sidelines. Go Lions!



AT by Type of Equipment Provided

296
magnification
software

243
speech output and
braille display

261
alternative keyboards
and adaptations

59
alternative
pointing devices

77
AT accessories

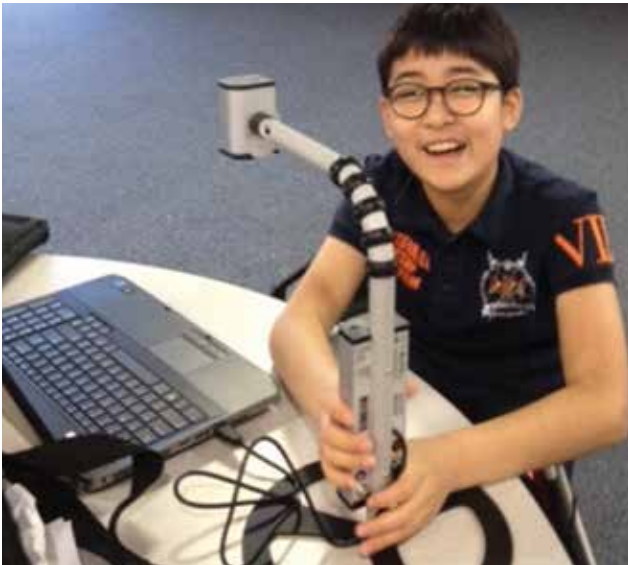
Assistive Technology Request

The Assistive Technology Request (ATR) Program provides funding assistance to Missouri schools for students with disabilities. The program accepts applications for students who have a need for assistive technology (AT) identified in their Individualized Education Plans. Program funding is provided through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

School districts can apply to Missouri Assistive Technology for the reimbursement of AT purchases that range from \$500 to \$5,000 for each student, and can get help selecting the most appropriate AT for the student. Devices provided for students included closed-captioned televisions (CCTVs) for students with vision impairments, Braille embossers, augmentative communication devices, FM systems for students who are hard of hearing, tablet devices with disability-related apps, and many other types of AT needed for students to pursue their education in elementary and secondary school

AT Achievement

Seyoon is a 13-year-old student in St. Louis. He has a vision impairment that made it difficult to read his laptop screen and to see his class work. His school team tried out several AT devices for Seyoon. Through the ATR program, the school received a laptop with ZoomText software to enlarge everything on his computer screen. They also obtained a Magnilink camera so he can capture images from the classroom that can be viewed on his computer. He can also capture images of text documents to enlarge for easy viewing. Seyoon loves the flexibility and portability of the laptop and camera which he can carry from one classroom to another.



William is a seven-year-old who lives and goes to school in St. Louis. William is non-verbal and also has a vision impairment. His school staff wanted to find out what type of tablet and communication app might work best for William. They borrowed a device and app from Missouri Assistive Technology for a six week trial. The trial was so successful, they applied for and received an ATR program grant to purchase an iPad and communication app. William now uses the device to talk with his peers in the classroom and, using story apps, he is now able to tell his mom about his activities in school.



ATR - Dollars by Disability Type

45
vision
\$118,365

35
hearing
\$51,337

65
speech
\$79,940

20
learning
\$16,336

12
physical
\$18,868

Policy and Technical Assistance

Home- and Community-Based Services

Missouri, as have many states, continues to explore home-and community-based options for long-term care. More than ever, seniors and persons with disabilities want to have quality community settings as an option to living in a nursing home or other institutional setting.

Assistive technology (AT) is one key tool in the array of community services and supports needed to achieve the maximum level of independence in the community. Missouri Assistive Technology continued working with the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Health and Senior Services, and the MO HealthNet Division in efforts to improve community services. Contractors for the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project participated in a training held by MoAT on an array of AT devices and services that can contribute to successful transitions from nursing homes to the community.

MoAT staff also continued collaboration in outreach and training related to the Assistive Technology service now in all of Missouri's developmental disability home- and community-based waivers.

Deaf-Blind Equipment Program

Missouri Assistive Technology began its second year of operating the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). The program provides equipment and training for this underserved population of individuals for whom telecommunications are difficult or impossible. Missouri was one of the nation's most successful programs in outreach and allocating equipment and equipment training resources through providing over 200 devices to 62 Missourians who are deaf-blind.

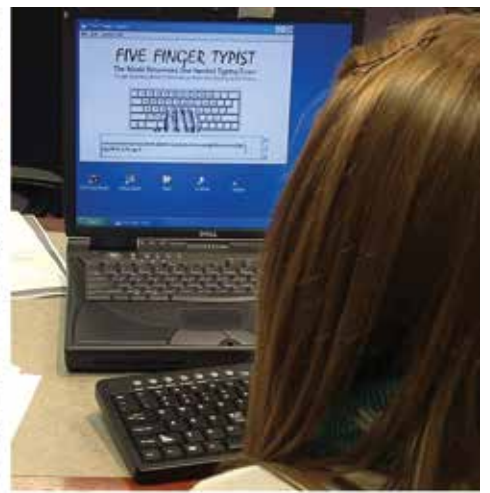


AT Achievement

Scott is actively involved in the Deaf-Blind community, and even plays Santa Claus every year for the Deaf-Blind Social Club of Kansas City. He communicates with Tactile Sign Language, and until the NDBEDP, that was his primary source of communication.

Thanks to Deaf-Blind equipment funds, Scott now uses JAWS with a refreshable Braille keyboard, a Braille notetaker and his iPhone that were purchased through the NDBEDP program in Missouri along with training in the use of the equipment.

Scott is now active in communicating online, setting up appointments, advocating for not only his needs but assisting others at the local Independent Living Center. He says that he is very impressed with what the devices can do for him. "It is great and cool technology" Scott added.



Training and Power Up Conference

Training

Assistive technology for persons with disabilities advances at a dizzying pace. During the year, Missouri Assistive Technology staff provided training to 4,028 educators, service providers, students, persons with disabilities, families and others. Another 1,671 participants received training from contract staff around the state. The most popular topics covered AT Products and Services; followed by Funding/Policy/Practice; and Information Technology/Telecommunications.

Power Up Conference and Expo

This year's Power Up Assistive Technology Conference and Expo drew participants from every corner of Missouri and beyond. Over 500 persons came to Columbia to learn about AT for education, community living, and employment.

Service providers, case coordinators, therapists, special educators, individuals with disabilities and parents all enjoyed two days of sessions and were able to visit more than 50 vendors in the Expo Hall. Topics covered everything from iPads and disability apps, technology for vision impairments, communication, and other disabilities, as well as sessions on policy and practice.





MISSOURI **ASSISTIVE** TECHNOLOGY

MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL AND STAFF

Consumer Representatives

Gary Wunder (Chair)	Sharon LaRoussa
Chip Hailey (Chair Elect)	Michael Goad
Pam Arbeiter (Past Chair)	Kerri Morgan
Rita Lynch	Amy Parker
Marjorie Yates	Mary Secora
Deana O'Brien	Steve Hathaway

Agency Representatives

Merv Blunt	<i>Division of Special Education</i>
Dolores Sparks	<i>Developmental Disabilities Council</i>
Cindy Winingar Watson	<i>HealthNet Division</i>
Naomi Soule	<i>Rehabilitation Services for the Blind</i>
Molly White	<i>Department of Insurance</i>
Leann Haslag	<i>Department of Health and Senior Services</i>
Robin Rust	<i>Department of Mental Health</i>
Kelly Cook	<i>Division of Vocational Rehabilitation</i>
Aaron Luna	<i>Centers For Independent Living</i>

Legislative Representatives

Senator Scott Rupp
Representative Jeff Grisamore

MoAT Staff

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Eileen Belton	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Stacy Brady	<i>TAP for Telephone Coordinator</i>
John Effinger	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Kristine Rooff	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Brenda Whitlock	<i>TAP for Internet Coordinator</i>
Kristy Summers	<i>Program Assistant</i>



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